

2008 ADE/CEF Promising Practice Awards

Part 1: Cover Sheet

Practice Name: Student Council

Name of Principal: Ken Graff

Official School Name: Sycamore Elementary School

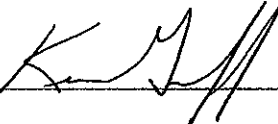
School Mailing Address: 16701 S. Houghton Rd Tel. (520) 879-2500 ext. 2504

School Website: <http://syc.vail.k12.az.us>

City: Corona Zip Code: 85641

Email Address: graffk@vail.k12.az.us

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate. If my program is recognized as a Promising Practice the contents of this application may be available to the public.

 Date 11/26/07

(Principal's signature)

Name of Superintendent: Calvin Baker

District Name: Vail School District

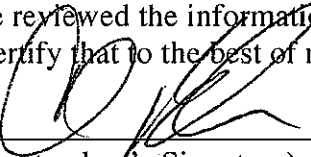
Tel. (520) 879-2000

District Mailing: PO Box 800

City: Vail Zip Code: 85641

Email Address: bakerc@vail.k12.az.us

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate.

 Date 11/26/07

(Superintendent's Signature)

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Part II: Background Information

1. Category that best describes the area where the school is located:

- ☐ Urban or large central city ☐ Suburban
☐ Suburban school with characteristics typical of an urban area
☒ Small city or town in rural area ☐ Rural

2. 5 Number of years the principal has been in her/his position at this school.

 If less than three years, how long was the previous principal at this school?

3. Number of students enrolled at each grade level or its equivalent in applying school building:

Pre-K: 95	5th: 133	10th: <u> </u>
1st: 129	6th: <u> </u>	11th: <u> </u>
2nd: 132	7th: <u> </u>	12th: <u> </u>
3rd: 131	8th: <u> </u>	
4th: 141	9th: <u> </u>	TOTAL: 761

4. Limited English proficient students in school: 2.2% - 17 total students

Number of languages represented: 1 Specify languages: Spanish

5. Students who participate in free/reduced-priced meals: 27.9% - 212 total students

If this method is not a reasonably accurate estimate of the percentage of students from low-income families or the school does not participate in the federally-supported lunch program, specify a more accurate estimate, tell why the school chose it, and explain how it arrived at this estimate.

1. What is the practice and how have you implemented it in your school or district?

We are proud to nominate the Sycamore Student Council for this year's 2008 ADE/CEF Promising Practices Award. Our Student Council is a unique and exemplary program, which demonstrates the essential character traits for our student body. The council members are expected to model our core school values of acting with respect, responsibility, caring about others, and being trustworthy. They take pride in setting a school-wide example of how to be a good citizen and how to demonstrate good character in and out of school.

The Sycamore Elementary Student Council was implemented in the 2004-2005 school year. It was the first elementary school in the Vail School District to create a Student Council. This program has since been emulated by other elementary schools in the district, and has set an example around the Vail School District of how to build character and leadership skills for young students. The Student Council members are elected by their peers and recommended by their teachers because they model the essential character values of our school.

Student Council has created a unique link between the students, staff, and community. It empowers the students of the school to have an opportunity to lead, have a voice about the decisions made at Sycamore, and feel that their opinions are validated. Student Council has helped to create the positive school climate and atmosphere you feel when visiting the Sycamore Elementary School campus. Since its implementation, it has been a vital program for creating the high character standards that are valued among the students, staff, and community.

2. How does the specific practice contribute to character development?

The Student Council program has been a crucial piece in creating and developing a strong character education program at Sycamore. Student Council has implemented many programs and activities that foster and promote the key character traits of integrity, citizenship, trustworthiness,

respect, responsibility, and caring for others. For example, they hold monthly school-wide Character Counts Assemblies where student created videos are shown that portray character traits through real-life scenarios. They also recognize students who exemplify key character actions. All students in the school acquire a sense of commitment, responsibility, and service.

Student Council sets high expectations for themselves and the students at Sycamore. As one student stated, student council has taught him to, "exceed far and beyond." The students in Student Council are viewed as assets to the school with a voice that can make a difference because they represent the opinions and ideas of their peers. Student Council sets the standard of not only how to be good students, but how to be a good person.

3. What impact is the practice having on students in your school or district?

Since the creation of Student Council at Sycamore, students have an increased desire to be involved in their school, and act in a positive way that is modeled by the members of Student Council. Over the years, they have created programs that allow the students to give back to the community and that teach students how to care for others. Each year they sponsor a canned food drive that helps families in need, participate in Pennies for Patients which raises money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Foundation in Arizona, and sell seasonal friendship grams that allows students to display random acts of kindness. A staff member at Sycamore praised Student Council with creating "a strong community built on kindness." These activities allow the entire school to unite and partake in projects that serve the community and the school. As one parent noted, "Student Council is a learning opportunity for children to learn key character traits and service dedication." We are honored to recognize the hard work and dedication of the Sycamore Student Council, and know that this program will continue to inspire children at our school for years to come.